REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

The above changes were made to conform the claims to U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been added.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 246152016400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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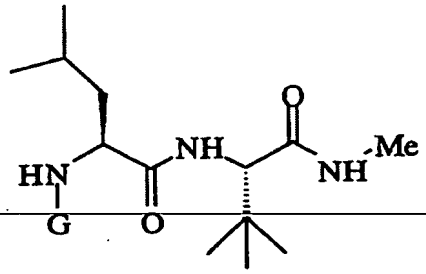
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows:

1. (Amended) [Process] A process for the preparation of a dipeptide of formula 1 comprising



(1)

[where G represents a protective group with] coupling N-protected L-leucine [being coupled] to L-*tert.*-leucine-N-methylamide in the presence of an activating agent, [characterized in that a formyl group is used as protective group] wherein G is a protective group that is a formyl group.

2. (Amended) [Process] The process according to claim 1 in which the L-*tert.*-leucine-N-methylamide has an enantiomeric excess greater than 98%

3. (Amended) [Process] The process according to claim 1 [or 2] in which the N-formyl-L-leucine has an enantiomeric excess greater than 98%.

4. (Amended) [Process] The process according to [any one of]claim[s] 1[-3] further comprising subjecting [in which] the N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert.*-leucine-N-methylamide obtained [is subsequently subjected] to one or more crystallizations.

5. (Amended) [Process] The process according to [any one of]claim[s] 1[-4] further comprising deformylating [in which] the dipeptide obtained [is subsequently deformylated].

6. (Amended) [Process] The process according to claim 5 further comprising subjecting [in which] the L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide obtained [is subsequently subjected] to one or more crystallizations.

7. (Amended) [Process] The process according to claim 5 [or 6 in which] further comprising coupling the L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide [is subsequently coupled] to a substituted or nonsubstituted α-mercaptocarboxylic acid to form the corresponding N-α-optionally substituted mercaptocarboxyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide.

8. (Amended) A compound which is N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide.

9. (Amended) A composition comprising the N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide defined in claim 8 wherein [with] an enantiomeric excess is present of the N-terminal amino acid in the dipeptide of more than 80%.

10. (Amended) The composition according to claim 9 wherein the [N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide with an] enantiomeric excess of the N-terminal amino acid in the dipeptide [of] is more than 98%.

11. (Amended) The composition [N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide] according to claim 9[or 10 with] wherein a diastereomeric excess is present of more than 80%.

12. (Amended) The composition [N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide] according to claim 11 with a diastereomeric excess of more than 98%.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising [Use of] N-formyl-L-leucyl-L-*tert*.-leucine-N-methylamide according to [any one of]claim[s] 8[-12 in the preparation of pharmaceuticals] and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.